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### Memorial of the Cherokee mediators.

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SEMINOLE AND CHEROKEE INDIANS.

MEMORIAL

OF

THE CHEROKEE MEDIATORS.

MARCH 26, 1838.

Referred to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

*To the honorable the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States in Congress assembled :*

The memorial and petition of the undersigned, a deputation appointed by John Ross, Principal Chief of the Cherokee nation, on behalf and under the authority of the United States, to mediate for peace with the Seminoles in Florida,

RESPECTFULLY SHEWETH :

That after the arrival, in September, 1837, of a special agent from the United States, your memorialists were selected, by the principal chief of their nation, for a mission to mediate for peace between the Seminoles, in Florida, and the United States of North America.

The mission in question was proposed, in the first instance, by a special agent from the United States, Colonel John H. Sherburne ; but as the said special agent did not appear to be prepared with a sufficiently clear explanation of his views, and a sufficiently distinct evidence of his authority, the principal chief, ( who, with a delegation, was on his way to Washington upon other business, ) before acting upon the suggestions offered, considered it to be expedient for him, personally, to ascertain from the United States Government what the scope of the proposed mission was to be, and how far it was sanctioned and to be sustained by the Executive.

From Washington, the principal chief apprized the regular authorities of the Cherokee nation that he had had the necessary understanding with the Secretary of War ; and, in due course, we received from our principal chief a letter of instructions, dated October 20, 1837, a copy of which is herewith submitted, No. 1 ; and at the same time we received a talk, dated October 18, 1837, from our principal chief, to be delivered by us, in his name, to the chiefs, headmen, and warriors, of the Seminoles of Florida. A copy of this talk is here annexed, bearing the No. 2.

In the course of the conversations with your memorialists regarding this mission, the special agent of the United States distinctly and repeat-

Thomas Allen, print.

edly assured us, not only that our expenses would be paid, but that compensation for the time employed by us, certainly not less than five dollars a day for each, and more likely eight, might be relied on; and that, in the event of entire success in our object, a very liberal compliment might be anticipated from Congress. All these expectations were held out to us by the special agent of the United States, Colonel John H. Sherburne, entirely of his own accord, and without any solicitation, or even hint, on our part.

After your memorialists departed on this mission, they met the special agent of the United States at Augusta, in Georgia, and proceeded to Florida in his company. On the 13th of November, 1837, they received a letter from Major General Jesup, which will be found among the accompanying documents, No. 3, and which represents of the plan disclosed to him on their introductory interview, that it was "highly satisfactory;" and that he "appreciated fully the benevolent and humane motives which had impelled our chief to order, and us to undertake, the perilous enterprise." What said the general, when that "perilous enterprise" had been accomplished? An enterprise, the entire peril of which, though your memorialists always knew it to be great, has, only within a few days, been made known to them by a Seminolean now in Washington; for while the chiefs were in, under a flag of truce, it had been secretly determined by the Seminoleans that your memorialists should be slain, in consequence of a suspicion raised up against them of treachery, as false mediators. What said the general, after their escape from this "perilous enterprise?" He writes to them, December 15, 1837, on their departure from Florida, (see No. 4,) "I seize the occasion to assure you of the respect I entertain for you, collectively and individually; a respect inspired alike by your official conduct and personal deportment." "I shall, on every occasion, bear testimony to the zealous and untiring efforts you have made, and the hazards you have encountered, in fulfilling the duties assigned to you by your chief." "In returning to your homes, you have my best wishes for the peace, prosperity, and happiness, of yourselves and your people." And in further evidence that they were acknowledged to have performed what they undertook, to the entire satisfaction of the general, he writes on the same day to the Secretary of War, concerning the Cherokee deputation, "It is due to justice that I should express to you the high sense which I entertain of their character and conduct; they have acted with the most untiring zeal and earnestness." "I consider it due to them, as well as to myself, to assure you of my belief that they have acted, throughout, in perfect good faith, and with a sincere desire to serve you and our country, and to benefit the Indians by enlightening them in regard to their true interests."

And your memorialists were afterwards surprised by a course of conduct towards the Seminoleans, on the part of General Jesup, calculated to discredit them with those to whom they were sent as mediators, and utterly incompatible with all the expectations with which they went upon the mission. Into this point, however, it is unnecessary for them now to enter. Towards the close of December, 1837, they were in Savannah, on their return from Florida, and prepared, in obedience to the instructions of their principal chief, to go back to their homes, considering their mission at an end.

At Savannah, however, the special agent of the United States renewed his representations of the service your memorialists might render, by continuing with him, for purposes which will appear in the letter addressed by their principal chief to the Secretary of War, and, among the documents, bearing the No. 11.

Your memorialists, though urgently called by domestic and business affairs to their homes, were induced by the earnest solicitations of the special agent of the United States, enforced by the arguments of an officer in the army and others, to remain with the said special agent, and to accompany him to Washington. They were led by the special agent to believe that, even after this, the Government would require a new mission to the Seminoles, in which their aid would be all-important; and they did not regard the sacrifice of their private claims, when they imagined they could promote the public good.

The arrival of your memorialists at Washington was officially announced by their principal chief to the Secretary of War, as will be seen in document No. 5. They refer to the letter No. 11, which has already been quoted, to prove that, after being brought to Washington by the special agent of the United States, all the official communications, either with them personally, or relating to them, on the part of their principal chief, concur to show that they had every reason to consider themselves as detained at Washington to await the completion of such arrangements as must precede the renewal of their mission to the Seminoles.

But your memorialists, after having incurred very heavy expenses, were first astonished, by some untraceable rumors of a charge of treachery in their mission; concerning which they have in vain demanded an explanation from the proper authorities. And after this they learned, with astonishment still greater, that steps were taken which rendered it impossible for them longer to believe that any new mission to the Seminoles could be intended.

Perplexed by these inscrutable movements, your memorialists applied to the Secretary of War for information as to his further expectations from them, and, to their amazement, found that he disclaimed all knowledge of their business at Washington, and absolutely refused to recognise them as having been employed by the Government subsequently to their return from Florida to Savannah.

This denial of their claim will be found in Nos. 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 12, and 11, already quoted. And the claim itself will be found in No. 13. The circumstances under which their demand has been reduced are considered so unjust that they have thought proper to decline receiving the pittance tendered. In adopting the extremely vexatious and injurious measure, of which they have such reason to complain, the Secretary of War has never yet attempted to deny any one particular of all that they have stated. They have reiterated every circumstance before the Secretary of War, in the presence of Colonel John H. Sherburne, the special agent himself, who has listened without offering the slightest contradiction. The Secretary of War expressly assures them that he does not dispute their assertions, but that he cannot sustain Colonel John H. Sherburne in the course which he has adopted.

Your memorialists are now forced to appeal to Congress. Your honorable bodies will feel that it must cost your memorialists great anguish

to be brought under this humiliating necessity, and will therefore pardon them for giving you the inconvenience of listening to what they would have been much better pleased never to have been compelled to utter. They risked their lives, and they sacrificed their time and interests, in the earnest and animating endeavor to mediate with success; an endeavor so far from being defeated by any error on their part, that all the steps they took in it, independently, were not only successful, but applauded even in writing by the commandant of the American army; and, having done all this, they deemed it hard to be told they were charged with treachery, and not to be told by whom or how. But they did not conceive it possible for them to be exposed to any still more galling injury. If dismissed, they supposed, at least; the pecuniary part of the promises made to them would be fulfilled. They could not have dreamed that, by any possibility, they could have been called upon, after enduring unmerited dishonor, to be the victims of a pecuniary misunderstanding between the Government and one of its accredited representatives.

To your memorialists it appears, that if the individual in question has exceeded his authority, he himself ought to meet the consequences, and not they who trusted the Government upon the faith of its agent.

And your memorialists, as in duty bound, will ever pray.

HAIR CONRAD, his + mark.

JESSE BUSHYHEAD.

THOMAS WOODWARD, his + mark.

RICHARD FIELDS.

MAJOR POLECAT, his + mark.

WASHINGTON CITY,

March 21, 1838.

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No. 1.

WASHINGTON CITY,

October 20, 1837.

GENTLEMEN: I regret that a different course has been taken by Colonel Sherburne than the one agreed upon between him and myself on our separation at the agency, and which was made known to you, in regard to his returning to Washington, &c.; not that I believe any injury has resulted from the course taken, but because it was calculated to throw a mist over the *true understanding*, which might have led to embarrassment in my intercourse with the Secretary of War, in reference to the contemplated mission to Florida, and which has actually caused some trouble and delay in the business. It is due to truth and justice, and no less to our own reputation in the matter, that we should act with a clear and distinct understanding with the officers of Government, in reference to the mediation. As much depends upon our mutual confidence and co-operation to ensure success in this important mission, I have deemed it proper to make these remarks, that you may be particularly guarded against giving sanction to any steps which, by possibility, may be construed into an act of your own, to the disadvantage of the cause in which you are engaged. I have had a free and full conversation with the Sec-

retary of War on the subject of this affair; and he has given sanction to our mediation, and approves of the talk, which is herewith enclosed for the Seminoles, which you will deliver in person. The Secretary is desirous that these people should be fully impressed with his sincerity in the sentiments which he has authorized to be communicated to them. The Secretary says, that he was informed Oseola had, on a former occasion, killed a chief of distinction in his own tribe; that the friends of the deceased chief, who have emigrated West, threaten revenge on Oseola, should he ever go there; and should this produce any difficulty with Oseola, as respects going with his people to the West, the Secretary of War says that *he might associate himself with any other tribe who would be willing to adopt him into their nation; at all events, he shall have the right of exercising his own discretion on the subject.* I cannot believe, myself, from the reputed standing of this man with his own people, that any fears are entertained by him upon that point; should you succeed in your mission of peace, the Secretary of War is willing for you to come on here with Colonel Sherburne, and also a delegation from the Seminoles, if they desire to send one; or, otherwise, if your mission fails, then it would be unnecessary for you to come on, but that you may return home from Charleston. General Jesup is the officer to whom the whole business of negotiating a treaty of peace with the Seminoles has been intrusted, as I am informed by the Secretary of War; consequently, your movement in this matter must be fully made known to him; you are only to act the part of mediators for the restoration of peace between the Seminoles and the United States; and whilst it will be your duty to advise these people for their own welfare, under all circumstances, to negotiate peace with the United States, you must by all means avoid being instrumental in persuading them to the agreement, in their treaty, of any other particular measure, which might be chargeable to you, should any dissatisfaction ever grow out of the same hereafter. But, should the Seminole chiefs ask it of you, as a matter of favor, to use your influence with the officers of Government for the favorable consideration of any measure they may propose or desire, which may appear to you to be reasonable and just, there will be no impropriety in your compliance, and it will be your duty to do so. It will not be proper for you to speak to the Seminoles on the subject of our own affairs generally, or to speculate on the probable result of our own mission here, further than I have done in my address to them; great prudence and good management, for getting a peaceable access to these people will be required, and much will depend upon your own judgment, from your inherent knowledge of the Indian character, of the steps which ought to be taken; you must therefore confer freely and fully with General Jesup on this point, so as to act under his entire approbation in the course which you may take on the occasion. If you once get access to the chiefs, and obtain a meeting with them, so as to enable you to make them an introductory address in the presentation of my talk, &c., I cannot doubt your success, provided the operations on the part of the officers be judiciously arranged for getting a full meeting of the chiefs thereafter in council, for negotiating the terms of peace with them; to ensure which, I trust that an armistice will be promptly granted; unless this takes place, it would seem to me impossible to secure confidence enough in the Seminoles to effect the great object

of negotiating a permanent treaty of peace with them ; you will, of course, previous to leaving Charleston, provide yourselves with *pipe* and *tobacco*, to be delivered with my talk. You will keep minutes of all your proceedings, and report the same to me regularly. The object of your mission being simply to endeavor to restore peace and friendship between the Seminoles and the United States, with the approbation of the Secretary of War, it is unnecessary that I should say anything more than what is contained in my address to that people and in this letter, as you will be fully enabled by them to shape your communications with the Seminoles accordingly ; and the course which you take in this matter, I again repeat, must be with the full knowledge of the officers of the United States. Wishing you health and success in your peaceful mission, my colleagues join me in their respects to you and Colonel Sherburne.

Your friend, and obedient servant,

JOHN ROSS.

To Messrs. CONRAD,  
BUSHYHEAD,  
FIELDS, and  
WOODWARD,

*Charleston, South Carolina.*

We certify that this is the letter of instructions under which we acted as mediators, on a mission of peace to the Seminoles of Florida.

HAIR CONRAD, his + mark.

JESSE BUSHYHEAD.

THOMAS WOODWARD, his + mark.

RICHARD FIELDS.

MAJOR POLECAT, his + mark,

*Interpreter.*

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No. 2.

*To the Chiefs, Headmen, and Warriors, of the Seminoles of Florida.*

I address you in the name of the Cherokee nation, as its principal chief, and with the feelings of a brother hold out to you the hand of friendship. I am of the aboriginal race of the red-man of this great island, and so are you. The path which leads from my council fire to that of yours is a long one, and there has been no intercourse between us ; my native language is different from that of yours, and we are strangers to each other. Yet, the time was, when our ancestors once smoked the pipe of peace together ; therefore, I ask you to listen to my talk ; do not let my words enter in one ear and pass through the other, like the listless wind, but receive them firmly into your hearts, because they emanate from the purest feelings of my own heart for your welfare.

Brothers, listen ! I have heard of the gloom which overspreads your land, of the loud mutterings of the big gun, and the shrill echo of the war-whoop. Alas ! of the hostile blow which has been struck between you and our white brethren. This is bad news, and it makes me feel sorry. Perchance, you may have heard that the Cherokees are also in trouble about their own lands ; this is true ; but I have spoken to my people, and they have listened. I told them to remember the language of President Washington, and that of his illustrious successors, and to hold fast to the faith of treaties, which, by mutual consent, had been solemnly pledged.

between our nation and the United States. That the laws and treaties for the security and protection of our rights were the only weapons with which we must defend them. That, if it has been our misfortune to suffer wrongs from the hands of our white brethren, we should not despair of having justice still extended to us by the United States.

Brothers, I am now in the beloved city where our father, the President of the United States, is seated, and his great councils are held. I have with me a delegation of chosen men, sent by the council of my nation for the purpose of endeavoring to settle all our differences with our white brethren upon peaceable and friendly terms. Since our arrival here, we have met with delegations of red-men from several of the northern tribes; among them we have seen Black Hawk, of whom you may have heard something. They have all come on a peaceable mission to the Government of the United States, in relation to the affairs of their respective nations.

Brothers, I have shook the hands of our elder brother, the Secretary of War, and of our father, the President of the United States, and talked with them. I told our elder brother that it grieved my heart to hear of the shedding of blood between our white and red brethren, the Seminoles; and asked him if it could not be stopped, and healed by the balm of peace. He promptly replied, yes; and said that he had no desire to destroy the red-man, as it was the wish of his heart to treat them all with kindness and liberal justice; and assured me that such were also the feelings of the President towards them; but, that the Government could not take any steps in your affair which may be interpreted into an act of weakness; yet, if your people desired peace, and would lay aside your warlike attitude, and come in, that a treaty of peace would be negotiated with you under the authority of the President of the United States, and that a veil shall be thrown over everything that had taken place during the war, so that they may be covered, and never remembered or revenged. That you, Oseola Powell, and all others who may have been considered as principal actors in the conflict, shall be received into equal favor and protection with all the Seminoles, in the treaty of peace.

Brothers, I have truly related to you what has been said to me by our elder brother, who represents our father, the President of the United States, in relation to your nation. I believe his words to have been uttered with a sincere heart. I have therefore proffered to become mediator, for the restoration of peace and friendship between you and our white brethren, and I rejoice in telling you that it has been accepted.

Brothers, I have sent a letter to my associate chiefs at home, to inform them of all this; I have directed them to send four of my confidential and trust-worthy men, with an interpreter, to go as messengers of peace, and forthwith bear to you this my talk. I trust that you will take them by the hand, and smoke the pipe of brotherly friendship with them. I will tell you their names, Te-kah skeh, alias Hair Conrad; Tas-ke-ket-eh-ee, alias Jesse Bushyhead; Oo-sah-e-tah, alias Richard Fields; Ab-nah-sta-quah, alias Thomas Woodward, and their interpreter, Te-lah-kah-quah-tah, alias the Polecat. They go under the sanction and protection of our father, the President of the United States, and they are accompanied by a special agent, Colonel John H. Sherburne, who is sent by our elder brother, the Secretary of War, from this city, for that purpose.

Brothers, my hands are clean, and they have never been stained with



your blood ; they are offered to arrest the uplifted weapons of death, and to stop the effusion of blood, between a red and a white brother ; for the sake of your women and children, I beseech you not to push my hands away from you, nor to turn your back upon me. I tell you, in the language of truth, that I have no other interest in this mediation than the common good which the blessings of peace bestow on all mankind. I do not stop to inquire who has been in fault, nor to throw blame upon you, or upon our white brethren, for what has taken place ; it is enough for me to hear that our white brethren say that they do not desire your destruction, and that they are willing to negotiate peace and friendship with you, and to forget all the evils which have transpired between you and them, that you may hereafter hold each other more firmly by the hand in brotherly love.

Brothers, I will not speak of the great power of the United States Government, because you know all about it, as well as I do ; nor will I say anything to operate upon your fears ; for I know that a brave people, when driven to a state of desperation, would sooner die under the strong arm of power, than to shrink and die the death of the coward. But I will speak to you as a friend, and with the voice of reason advise you, as a small but a brave people, to act the part of a noble race, and at once to throw yourselves upon the magnanimity and justice of the American people ; for I will again repeat, that our elder brother, the Secretary of War, says that the General Government ardently desires to terminate this contest, without the further effusion of blood ; and that it would be gratifying to *all*, who are animated with kind feelings towards their red brethren, to see you return to the paths of peace ; that if you desire peace, it will be granted you ; and that every kindness and indulgence in the power of the Government will be exercised towards you.

Brothers, listen ! Can you turn a deaf ear to such kind feelings and generous sentiments, and will you prefer war to peace, and the utter ruin of your people to their welfare and happiness ? I cannot and will not believe it. As to the terms upon which your treaty of peace shall be negotiated, I have nothing to say ; that is a matter to be agreed upon between you and the Government of the United States. I have been assured, however, by the Secretary of War, that you shall be liberally compensated for any losses or injuries which you may have sustained by the injustice of your white brethren ; and, further, that after peace and friendship shall have been restored, should you desire to send a delegation to pay a visit to your father, the President of the United States, for the purpose of getting any business confirmed, which may be agreed upon between you and his commissioners, that you shall be permitted to do so, in company with his agent and those of your Cherokee brethren who will deliver you this talk.

Brothers, my talk is over ; I now commend to your friendly reception the messengers of peace, who in my name will offer you the right hand of friendship and the pipe of peace, which I trust will be accepted and smoked with them and our white brethren. May the Great Author of human existence be with you in your deliberations, and give you wisdom and a pure heart to decide righteously ; for the future prosperity and happiness of your nation is the sincere prayer of your friend and elder brother,

KOO-WE-SKOO WE, *alias* JOHN ROSS.

WASHINGTON, October 18, 1837.

**BROTHERS:** We have heard the talk of our chief to you; it is a good talk; we hope you will receive it in the same spirit of kindness in which it is offered; and that the dark cloud which hangs over you may be dispersed; that you will now have a clear sky and a bright sun to beam upon your women and children, to invigorate the growth of the future welfare and happiness of your nation, is the wish of your senior brothers of the Cherokee delegation, who join their chief in offering you the hand of friendship.

RICHARD TAYLOR,  
EDWARD GUNTER,  
JAMES BROWN,  
SAMUEL GUNTER,  
ELIJAH HICKS,  
SITEWAKEE,  
WHITE PATH.

TO MICANOPY, (PHILIP,)  
COACOCHEE, (WILDCAT,)  
OSEOLA, (POWELL,)

*And others of the chiefs and warriors of the Seminoles of Florida.*

We hereby certify that we read, explained, and interpreted this talk to Micanopy, Sam Jones, Cloud, Tuskekee, Nocose Yahola, other chiefs and their warriors of the Seminole and Mickasuky Indians, at a council held with them at Chickasawhatchee creek, in East Florida, on the 30th day of November and the 1st day of December, 1837.

HAIR CONRAD, his + mark.

JESSE BUSHYHEAD.

THOMAS WOODWARD, his + mark.

RICHARD FIELDS.

MAJOR POLECAT, his + mark,

*Interpreter.*

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No. 3.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,

*St. Augustine, November 13, 1837.*

**GENTLEMEN:** When I received your note of to-day, I was too much engaged in business connected with the movement of the troops to reply in writing, but I desired my aid-de-camp, Lieutenant Chambers, to inform you that I would see you immediately on disposing of the matters which then required my attention. The interview which has just terminated has been highly satisfactory to me, and I appreciate fully the benevolent and humane motives which have impelled your chief to order, and you to undertake, the perilous enterprise in which you propose to engage. I have permitted Coa Hadjo and Assun Yahola to send messengers to their people to invite them to come in and surrender, with the assurance of protection for the future and oblivion of the past. I have requested those chiefs to inform the chiefs that are out, through these messengers, of your presence at headquarters, and of your humane and peaceful mission; and I have authorized the messengers to bear any message which you may desire to send to any or all those chiefs.

The messengers will depart to-morrow ; and I desire you to see the chiefs Coa Hadjo and Assun Yahola in the morning, and in their presence and with their assent, charge the messengers with whatsoever you have to say. In the mean time I desire an authenticated copy of your instructions.

My aid will take the copy, and I desire that he and one of your members certify to its correctness.

I have the honor to be, gentlemen, your most obedient servant,

THOS. S. JESUP,

*Major General commanding.*

Messrs. RICHARD FIELDS,

HAIR CONRAD,

THOMAS WOODWARD, and

JESSE BUSHYHEAD,

} *Cherokee Delegation to the  
Seminoles.*

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No. 4.

HEADQUARTERS, ARMY OF THE SOUTH,

*Fort Mellon, December 15, 1837.*

GENTLEMEN: I have received your communication of this day's date, and I seize the occasion to assure you of the respect which I entertain for you collectively and individually ; a respect inspired alike by your official conduct and personal deportment.

I regret with you the failure of your friendly and philanthropic mission, but I shall, on every proper occasion, bear testimony to the zealous and untiring efforts you have made, and the hazards you have encountered, in fulfilling the duties assigned to you by your chief.

In common with the majority of my fellow-citizens, I am the friend of the red-man, and would rather confer benefits than inflict injuries upon him. Should the fortune of war place any of the Seminoles or Mickasukies in my hands, they will be treated with kindness, and every indulgence will be extended to them not incompatible with their security.

As to the chiefs, Micanopy and Cloud, they came in to remain. They were hostages under the treaty of Fort Dade ; were forcibly carried off, and Micanopy at least was on his way to join me at Tampa Bay, where he supposed he would find me before he heard of your arrival. He is aware that I have sent him and the warriors who accompanied him to St. Augustine, in consequence of the recent conduct of Appiaccia and other chiefs and their people.

I most ardently desire that the war may be terminated, if possible, without bloodshed, and I shall avail myself of every favorable occurrence so to terminate it.

In returning to your homes, you have my best wishes for the peace, prosperity, and happiness, of yourselves and your people ; and I am, gentlemen, with great respect, your obedient servant,

THOS. S. JESUP.

Messrs. RICHARD FIELDS,

HAIR CONRAD,

THOS. WOODWARD,

JESSE BUSHYHEAD,

} *Members of the Cherokee Delegation.*

No. 5.

WASHINGTON CITY, *January 2, 1838.*

SIR: You have doubtless been informed, through Colonel John H. Sherburne, of the arrival in this city, on the evening of the 30th ultimo, the Cherokee deputation who were charged with the duty of endeavoring to restore peace between the Seminole Indians and the United States, in the character of mediators; this deputation penetrated the deep swamps and hammocks of Florida, under the escort of Coahachee, one of the captive chiefs, and at Chickasawhatchee, (Chickasaw creek,) a distance of sixty miles from Fort Mellon, they met the Seminole and Mickasuky chiefs and warriors in council, and there delivered to them the talk which I, with your approbation, had sent them; after reading and fully explaining its import, through the interpreter, the assembled chiefs and warriors at once agreed to receive it in friendship, as coming through their red brethren, the Cherokees, with the utmost sincerity and good feelings, from their elder brother, the Secretary of War, who represents their father, the President of the United States. When the usual Indian ceremonies on this occasion, in smoking the pipe of peace, &c., were concluded, Micanopy, the principal chief, with twelve others of his chieftains and a number of their warriors, agreed to accompany the Cherokee deputation, and accordingly went with them, under a flag of truce, into the headquarters of the United States army at Fort Mellon. After this successful meeting, further steps were taken for inviting all the people to go in, and whilst some were coming in, the escape of Wildcat from the fort at St. Augustine, and other events altogether beyond the control of the Cherokee deputation, produced a sudden and unexpected distrust and change of determination in the minds of the chiefs and warriors of the nation who were still out in their fastnesses. Upon being informed of this fact, it is reported that General Jesup immediately ordered his troops to be put in motion for hostile operations, and also caused all the chiefs and warriors who had come in under the Cherokee flag to be forthwith made prisoners of war; they were then placed into the hold of a steamboat, and shipped to the fort at St. Augustine, and there imprisoned. It is further reported that General Jesup told some of these chiefs, that, for the first drop of blood which might be spilt by the warriors against whom he had marched his troops in battle array, that they (the captive chiefs) shall be hanged! Under this extraordinary state of the affair, it has become my imperious though painful duty, for the defence of my own reputation, as well as that of the deputation who acted under my instructions for carrying out the humane objects of this mediation; also, in justice to the suffering chiefs and warriors, whose confidence in the purity of our motives, as well as in the sincerity of the Government, by the assurances held out to them under your authority, in my talk, had thus placed themselves under the flag of truce before the American army. I do hereby most solemnly protest against this unprecedented violation of that sacred rule which has ever been recognised by every nation, civilized and uncivilized, of treating with all due respect those who had ever presented themselves under a flag of truce before their enemy, for the purpose of proposing the termination of a warfare. Moreover, I respectfully appeal to and submit, for your decision, whether justice and policy do not require at your hands that these

captives should be forthwith liberated, that they may go and confer with their people, and that whatever obstacles may have been thrown in the way of their coming in to make peace may be removed. In a word, under all the circumstances of the case, so far as the particular captives alluded to are concerned, I feel myself called upon by every sense of justice and honor to ask that they may be released and placed at liberty to determine, with their people, what to do under all the circumstances of their affairs, as freely and untrammelled as they were previous to the council held with them by the Cherokee mediation, as it was through the influence of the Cherokee talk they had consented to go under the flag of truce into General Jesup's headquarters. The detailed report of the deputation, of their proceedings on this mission, not having as yet been fully made out, I have deemed it important to present the facts herein briefly stated without delay; and should it be deemed necessary, or you shall desire it, I will communicate to you the full report of the deputation, so soon as it may be in readiness.

I have the honor to be, sir, your obedient humble servant,

JNO. ROSS.

Hon. JOEL R. POINSETT, *Secretary of War.*

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No. 6.

WAR DEPARTMENT,

January 8, 1838.

SIR: Your letter of the 2d inst., in reference to the seizure of certain Seminole Indians, has been received. The subject has been referred to General Jesup, and a report respecting it demanded of him.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

JOHN ROSS, Esq., *Washington city.*

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No. 7.

WASHINGTON CITY,

February 28, 1838.

SIR: I need not recur to the fact that a deputation of Cherokees was sent by me, at the instance of the Government, conducted by Colonel John H. Sherburne, their special agent, to act as mediators with the Seminoles in Florida. The Cherokee deputation accomplished so much of the object in view as came within their power, and in such a manner as to elicit the thanks and compliments of the official persons best acquainted with the truth. If, after their task had ended, measures were taken which changed the prospects created by their mediation, they are of course persuaded that you are incapable of considering them responsible for the result.

The special agent of the United States distinctly stated that the expenses of the deputation would be paid by the United States; that they would also receive compensation for their loss of time in endeavoring to promote the interests of the United States, and he expressed a conviction that Congress would be sure, in the event of success, to make their remuneration a very liberal one.

The deputation, after fulfilling their mission, were about to return to their own country, when Colonel Sherburne expressly desired that, instead of returning thither, they should come on to Washington. He knew that if there had been anything imperfect in the result of their endeavors, it was not from any causes upon which they ever could have calculated; and he thought, as they themselves did, that they might still have an opportunity of contributing towards the establishment, so much desired by them, of permanent peace, by further efforts, in which they might be better sustained, and would thence hope to be thoroughly successful.

In accordance with the views thus expressed, and the urgent and repeated request of the special agent of the Government, the deputation came to Washington. They have been here for some time. Their expenses have been very heavy, and still continue so. I beg leave most respectfully to submit that these expenses are more than they can support. Having been induced by me, as principal chief of their nation, to quit their families and their private pursuits, upon this embassy, I feel it my duty to ask, has the Government any further desire to employ these mediators? And if not, can they hope to receive the indemnification on which they were led to rely, and the means of going back to their homes, without any of these continued delays, which embarrass them still more oppressively with expense?

I would also ask, in the event of any difficulty upon this matter, so important to them, though so small to the United States, that it may be directly submitted to his excellency the President, for his decision.

With entire reliance on the fairness and considerateness of the Government in relation to this affair, I have the honor to be, sir, most respectfully, your very obedient humble servant,

JNO. ROSS.

Hon. JOEL R. POINSETT,  
*Secretary of War.*

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No. 8.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

March 2, 1838.

SIR: Although much indisposed, I hasten to reply to your letter of the 28th February, in order to relieve the members of the delegation, to whom it alludes, from any unnecessary delay and increased expense. I had no intimation, until a few days ago, that those persons were waiting in Washington for orders from this Department, and then expressed my unfeigned astonishment that such a misunderstanding should have existed.

The Department authorized Mr. Sherburne to proceed to Florida with the delegation of Cherokees, in order, if practicable, to induce the Seminoles to comply with the treaty stipulations, and remove to the lands allotted to them west of the Mississippi. Having assembled a numerous and well-appointed army for the purpose of enforcing the treaty, if necessary, the Department thought it both humane and politic to propose peace to the Indians, before they resorted to arms. This delegation was selected for that purpose; how they discharged this sacred



obligation is not now a matter of praise nor censure. An investigation into all the circumstances of that mission will be made, and full justice shall be done to them. With regard to their compensation, it was believed by the Department, that, animated by motives of humanity, they sought no other remuneration than to be agents of restoring peace, and preventing the further effusion of blood. What Congress might have thought proper to have bestowed upon them, had they been successful, is now a useless inquiry. This Department intended to defray their expenses to and from Florida. Their coming to Washington was unauthorized, and entirely unnecessary, and the Department would have objected to it, had it not supposed that they came to unite with the Cherokees, now here on business unsanctioned and disapproved by the Department, but over which it has no control. In reply, therefore, to your interrogatories, I beg to state that the Government has no further desire to employ those mediators; and, further, that it did not regard them as being in the service beyond a reasonable time for their return from Florida to the Cherokee nation.

Upon their account for expenses to and from Florida, vouched by Mr. Sherburne, being presented at the Indian bureau, it will be allowed and paid.

I have, agreeably to your request, submitted your letter to the President, and he approves of this reply.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

Mr. JOHN ROSS,  
*Washington city.*

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No. 9.

WASHINGTON CITY, March 5, 1838.

SIR: Although I do not wish unnecessarily to prolong a correspondence upon the subject of my last letter, there are one or two points of your reply to it which I feel it to be a duty to myself and to the mediators whom I caused to visit Florida for the United States Government, not to pass over without some explanation on my part, and some inquiry.

You remark of the mediators, that it "was believed by the Department that, animated by motives of humanity, they sought no other remuneration than to be agents for restoring peace and preventing the further effusion of blood." I beg leave to explain, that when Colonel Sherburne applied to me on this subject, after having myself come to a personal understanding in regard to it with your Government, I exerted myself, with a most sincere and disinterested desire to end the war. I expected no remuneration; I have sought no remuneration. But to the persons whom I appointed from the nation, Colonel Sherburne, as the agent of the Government, of his own accord, promised compensation, and a further certain remuneration. If this had been looked upon as of paramount importance, it would have been made the subject of a special contract at the time; but it was not; it was left entirely open, the persons employed, who all have large families depending on their respective labors for support, not doubting but the United States Government

would fulfil the promise made to them by their agent. I have already explained that it was at the instance of Colonel Sherburne they came to Washington; that his wish was urged by solicitations, at first resisted by some of them, but so strongly and so repeatedly pressed by him, that they finally assented. I, as the person who first sent these mediators, ask no compensation; but the persons deputed by me, though they expect nothing for having freely risked their lives, can scarcely afford the pecuniary loss to their families caused by their long absence.

In reference to your remark concerning "an investigation of all the circumstances of that mission," I beg leave to ask whether I am to infer from this hint that there are any charges against the mediators before the Department, which call for investigation? I make this question for the purpose of relieving my mind from the difficulty I feel in comprehending the scope of your remark; though I am at a loss to understand how any investigation can be fairly entered into without first apprizing the parties to whom it relates, whether there are any complaints against them, what those complaints are, by whom they are made, and in what manner they are to be examined. Your own sense of justice will render it unnecessary for me to apologize for troubling you with this request.

I have the honor to be, sir, your very obedient servant,

JNO. ROSS.

Hon. J. R. POINSETT,

*Secretary of War.*

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No. 10.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

March 7, 1838.

SIR: Your letter of the 5th instant, on the subject of an allowance to the Cherokee delegates to the Seminoles, has been received. In reply, I inform you that an allowance to each, of five dollars per day, will be made for the time they were actually employed in the service of the Government; that is, from the period of their departure from the Cherokee nation to that at which they might have returned there, had they not deviated from their route, after the termination of the negotiations in Florida, to come to Washington.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

JOHN ROSS, Esq., *Washington city.*

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No. 11.

WASHINGTON CITY,

March 8, 1838.

SIR: Permit me to thank you for having admitted, to a certain extent, the propriety of fulfilling the expectation created by the United States agent in the mind of the mediators with the Seminoles. At the same time, I trust you will pardon me for exhibiting before you certain reasons for extending your justice to the residue of the indemnification on which they were induced to rely. I am persuaded that, on due consideration



of the particulars I have to mention, you will at once be convinced that these persons ought not to be made so largely the losers by their good will towards the United States, as they must be if the unasked promise made to them by her agent should be forgotten.

The scope of the evidence I have to lay before you, is, to show that if the mediators with the Seminoles came to Washington, after leaving Florida, without your orders, they also came without mine; but that, as their coming was at the express and often and earnestly repeated solicitation of your special agent, and growing out of circumstances which seemed to impose on him the necessity for exercising a discretionary power, it must be more proper that the United States should make up to them for the loss of time so caused by her representative, than that the individuals thus officially misled should be left liable for it; especially as the mediators themselves considered, and had every reason for considering, the United States, through her agent, as being distinctly and voluntarily pledged to them upon the subject.

Perhaps you may have forgotten the circumstance which arose at the very moment when Micanopy and the chiefs associated with him were captured under a flag of truce. The Cherokee mediators, in whose presence this occurred, no sooner recovered from their astonishment, than they asked to clear themselves from the appearance of treachery, in the mind of the Seminoles, who had unhesitatingly come, through their means, into the lines of the army, for negotiation, and there lost their liberty. Soldiers were just then hurrying the captives on board a steamboat. General Jesup would not permit the mediators to communicate, personally, with the individuals who had been thus entrapped and taken from their side. The mediators then entreated the general himself, on their behalf, to make the explanations so necessary to the vindication of their honor towards the chiefs who, through a reliance on them, had fallen into the snare. This also he declined; but added, that they would themselves be allowed an interview with the prisoners at the fort of St. Augustine, about one hundred miles distant, whither they were then being conveyed.

The reasons for the anxiety of the Cherokee mediators on this subject were peculiarly cogent. Unless fully cleared from suspicion, what might be the consequence, should any of the Cherokees and Seminoles at some future time be neighbors? Merited distrust and scorn! permanent and deadly rancor! How were they to be looked upon by their red brethren, generally, if they could not convince the victims themselves that they (the Cherokees) were innocent? How would they be viewed by the world at large, if any one could brand them as the willing tools to ensnare the confiding, under the sacredness of a flag of truce, which is respected by enemies the most ferocious, and by spirits the most untameable, throughout the peopled earth?

On the arrival of the Cherokee mediators at St. Augustine, they found that Oseola and some others, who had been captured previously, in a manner equally unexpected, had been already placed in the same fort which became the prison of Micanopy and the rest. Colonel Sherburne, the United States agent, who accompanied them, requested an interview with the captives, for himself, officially, and for the Cherokee mediators. Captain Webster, the commandant of the fort, received

Colonel Sherburne and the Cherokees in his own room. Colonel Sherburne expressed a wish to make some confidential communications to the Seminolean leaders, and only to the leaders, in presence of the Cherokee deputation. The leaders were called in. The Cherokee mediators explained to the Seminoleans that they were thoroughly innocent of the violation of the flag of truce; that they had acted in perfect good faith, and with an honest hope of being able to bring about an honorable peace. The Seminoleans at length acknowledged that they dismissed from their mind all suspicion of treachery, on the part of their Cherokee brethren. The mediators stated that they would make the affair a subject of formal complaint to their principal chief, who would seek redress for seizure of the Seminoleans from the United States national authorities at Washington. Colonel Sherburne expressed his belief that the remonstrance would be respected. He then asked, stating that he did so at the instance of General Jesup, whether, in the event of the United States Government securing to the Seminoleans a country stretching from Tampa Bay to the eastern shore, the Seminoleans would guard that part of the frontier, for the United States, from foreign invasion; whether they would deliver up all runaway American slaves who might seek refuge among them, and end the war in friendship and good faith. The chiefs appeared surprised. They said it was only to obtain these ends that they were fighting. Colonel Sherburne then followed up the suggestion thus: suppose such a proposition as he had named were sanctioned at Washington; suppose he were to return from Washington, to take back some chiefs, for the purpose of ratifying a treaty there on the conditions he had named, would any of those to whom he now spoke return with him? If any, which? Each replied, one by one, that he himself would. Philip was the only one who qualified his assent; Philip would only assent, when thoroughly convinced that the word given by the United States was not intended to be broken; but Oseola, plucking a white plume from his brow, gave it, with a scarf, to Colonel Sherburne, exclaiming, "Present these to our white father, in token that Oseola will do as you have said."

It was now understood on all hands that the mediation, at any rate, had been thus far successful. The mediators at length arrived, with Colonel Sherburne, at Savannah. They considered their mission at an end, and were preparing to return to their homes; but Colonel Sherburne would not consent to their return. One of them remonstrated very strongly against further detention, but Colonel Sherburne represented so earnestly the importance of their all accompanying him to Washington, enforcing his own persuasions by those of a friend, that the Cherokees were impelled to sacrifice their individual interests to those of the United States, for which they were thus led to believe the Government thought their co-operation desirable. There was no contract made on the subject of expenses, nor of indemnification, on this occasion, more than on the former, when a specific compensation was proffered, without having been asked. Nevertheless, as the service was continued, it was but reasonable to suppose that the indemnification was to be understood as continuing also. How could the mediators better afford the loss of time now, than previously? Their expenses were augmented by travel and residence in a more expensive region. By protracted absence, and

by the advance of that part of the season which most peculiarly demanded their personal attention on their own farms, their inconveniences and losses also were augmented. How, therefore, could they be expected, gratuitously, to give their means and efforts for the United States at one part of such an agency, more than at another? Could they have guessed that both in their outlay and their object they could have been left in the lurch, is it to be imagined they would have consented to throw away so much money, time, and trouble? Surely, it is unprecedented to stop a payment, merely because a service is to go on; and that there were irresistible reasons for the mediators to consider themselves, and for me and others to consider them, as being retained for specific purposes of usefulness, in a vocation which they did not solicit, proofs innumerable can be given, though I will confine myself to the few which follow, and which I cannot but believe you will consider all-sufficient.

On the arrival of the mediators at Washington, I had, of course, no doubt that Colonel Sherburne had faithfully reported the circumstance to the Department, with the facts which led to it; and I could not, therefore, have entertained the slightest supposition that they were not considered as much "actually employed in the service of the Government," at that time, as at any time before. I beg leave to remind you, as an evidence that I had convincing grounds for this impression, of my interview with you, sir, when, immediately on the arrival of the mediators, I had the honor of meeting you, with them and Colonel Sherburne. It was after I had sent in my protest, in which I asked "whether justice and policy did not require at your hands that the Seminoleans should be forthwith liberated, that they might go and confer with their people; and that whatever obstacles might have been thrown in the way of their coming to make peace might be removed." At the interview to which I allude, the Florida affair was named, and you stated the protest had been received, and should be attended to. To this I answered, that if the Department still desired the services of the mediators, and my own sentiments as to the course most likely to succeed with the Seminoleans, they were at your service. Your reply was a bow, which it was impossible for me to interpret otherwise than as an assent, especially when I presently afterwards received your note, stating that the protest had been referred, and a report on the circumstances demanded of General Jesup. What was the natural, the unavoidable, inference? I could not but suppose a report would arrive forthwith. I could not but suppose that, on the arrival of a fair report, my request for the release of the captives would necessarily be complied with. I could not but suppose that, on your compliance with my request for the release of the captives, and for their return to their countrymen, for the purpose of bringing about a peace, the mediators would be employed once more to second that purpose; and that you of course expected them to wait here until you could receive the information which must precede your carrying that purpose into effect. I cannot myself perceive how any such misunderstanding could have arisen, as the one which you name, in relation to these mediators. It seems to me perfectly inexplicable how it could ever have been imagined that they came to Washington merely to join a delegation already here, for well-known objects. Their original appointment, the official talk they bore, their constant association with your special agent,

his earnest request for them to come, my own communications concerning them after they were here, all concur to show that they were a special deputation, chosen for a special object, actually employed in that very special object, brought hither by your agent against their wish and my instructions, for the identical special object, and retained here, under the impressions unavoidably growing out of your own conversations and correspondence, also, for the selfsame special object. In my conviction that that special object was still steadily in view, I was not shaken until I found, not only that no report appeared from General Jesup upon the circumstances set forth in my protest, but that, in opposition to my protest, and to the course which appeared to me certain after the promised consideration of the case, the prisoners who had been taken under the flag of truce were actually, instead of being released, already transported, under an escort, west of the Mississippi, and nothing further said upon the subject. In this state of the affair, you may imagine my surprise and mortification, when I was told by you that you regarded the presence of the mediators at Washington as unauthorized, and that you had heard of it with astonishment. I can readily believe, however, that in the multiplicity of high demands upon your attention, the particulars I have detailed may, for the moment, have escaped your recollection; and I am fully persuaded that, on recalling them, you will think the same reasons which have impelled your fulfilment of a part of the unasked promises of your agent, equally applicable to the whole of them.

Believe me, sir, you cannot find it more irksome to listen to these representations than I do to feel myself under the necessity of making them. But when any of my people have been led, without solicitation on their part, to rely on promises for services to which they have, with great loss and inconvenience to themselves, sacrificed time and prospects of great value to them, you will yourself confess that I should be doing them extreme injustice were I to leave their case unrepresented. But it gives me great satisfaction to believe, that merely to represent it will be quite sufficient; for I am persuaded that the moment you distinctly see how strong the reasons are why the mediators should be shielded from the vast injury they must incur by being left unsatisfied, you are incapable of permitting them to be longer liable for the expenses of journeys and of a delay so costly; to say nothing of time wasted in mere fruitless attendance here, time upon which their families have a claim, and by the loss of which their wives and children must suffer.

In conclusion, permit me to remind you that there is a part of my last letter, in reference to your hint of an investigation, to which I do not find any reply in yours.

I have the honor to be, sir, most respectfully, your very obedient humble servant,

JNO. ROSS.

To the Hon. JOEL R. POINSETT,  
*Secretary of War.*

## No. 12.

DEPARTMENT OF WAR,

March 17, 1838.

SIR: Your letter of the 8th instant has been received.

My decision relative to the compensation of the Cherokees, who acted as mediators with the Seminoles, cannot be changed.

Very respectfully, your most obedient servant,

J. R. POINSETT.

JOHN ROSS, Esq., *Washington city.*

## No. 13.

*The United States, in account with Hair Conrad, Dr.*

For services on a mission of peace to the Seminoles of Florida, under the appointment of John Ross, principal chief of the Cherokee nation, and the escort of Colonel John H. Sherburne, special agent of the United States, commencing from the 28th day of October, 1837, up to the 4th day of April, 1838, inclusive, making 159 days, at \$5 per day, - - - - - \$795 00

Paid for horse hire, for conveying Mr. Woodward and myself from home to Spring Place, where we took the stage for Augusta, Georgia, on our way to Florida, including expense for diet, - - - - - 5 62½

Contingent expenses, medicine, &c. - - - - - 6 00

A. Fuller's bill, for board and lodging from the 30th December, 1837, to the 22d March, inclusive, - - - - - 208 00

Estimate for expenses for returning home to the Cherokee nation, - - - - - 70 00

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\$1,084 62½

OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

March 20, 1838.

According to directions received from the Secretary of War, the whole amount of the first item above (\$795) cannot be allowed. So much of it as is for services from the day the claimant left home till the day he could have returned to it, if he had not deviated from the proper route, will be paid.

The second can be paid.

The third can be paid, if the expenditure occurred during the time they are to receive compensation.

No part of the fourth or fifth can be allowed.

Colonel Sherburne's certificate should accompany the accounts, and they should be made out anew, in conformity to the principles above set forth.

C. A. HARRIS, *Commissioner.*

Approved :

J. R. P.

*The United States, in account with Jessé Bushyhead, Dr.*

For services on a mission of peace to the Seminoles of Florida, under the appointment of John Ross, principal chief of the Cherokee nation, and the escort of Colonel John H. Sherburne, special agent of the United States, commencing from the 30th day of October, 1837, up to the 4th day of April, 1838, inclusive, making 157 days, at \$5 per day, - - - - -	\$785 00
Paid for horse hire, and conveyance from home to Coosawattee, where I took the stage for Augusta, on my way to Augusta, - - - - -	5 00
Contingent expenses, consisting of medicine, barber's bill, &c.,	8 00
A. Fuller & Co's bill for board and lodging, from the 30th December, 1837, to the 22d March, inclusive, -	211 69
Estimate for expenses for returning to the Cherokee nation, -	70 00
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	\$1,079 69

## OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

March 20, 1838.

According to directions received from the Secretary of War the whole amount of the first item above (\$795) cannot be allowed. So much of it as is for services from the day the claimant left home till the day he could have returned to it, if he had not deviated from the proper route, will be paid.

The second can be paid.

The third can be paid, if the expenditure occurred during the time they are to receive compensation.

No part of the fourth or fifth can be allowed.

Colonel Sherburne's certificate should accompany the accounts, and they should be made out anew, in conformity to the principles above set forth.

C. A. HARRIS, *Commissioner*.

Approved:

J. R. P.

*The United States, in account with Thomas Woodward, Dr.*

For services on a mission of peace to the Seminoles of Florida, under the appointment of John Ross, principal chief of the Cherokee nation, and the escort of Colonel John H. Sherburne, special agent of the United States, commencing from the 28th day of October, 1837, up to the 4th day of April, 1838, inclusive, making one hundred and fifty-nine days, at \$5 per day, - - - - -	\$795 00
For contingent expenses, doctors' fees, medicines, barber's bill, &c. - - - - -	12 00
A. Fuller & Co's bill for board and lodging, from the 30th December, 1837, to the 22d of March, inclusive, -	207 69
Estimate for expenses for returning home to the Cherokee nation, - - - - -	70 00
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	\$1,084 69



## OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

March 20, 1838.

According to directions received from the Secretary of War, the whole amount of the first item above (\$795) cannot be allowed. So much of it as is for services from the day the claimant left home till the day he could have returned to it, if he had not deviated from the proper route, will be paid.

The second can be paid, if the expenditure occurred during the time they are to receive compensation.

No part of the third or fourth can be allowed.

Colonel Sherburne's certificate should accompany the accounts, and they should be made out anew, in conformity to the principles above set forth.

C. A. HARRIS, *Commissioner*.

Approved :

J. R. P.

*The United States, in account with Richard Fields, Dr.*

For services as a mediator of peace to the Seminoles of Florida, under the appointment of John Ross, principal chief of Cherokee nation, and the escort of Colonel John H. Sherburne, special agent of the United States, commencing from the 16th of September, 1837, up to the 4th of April, 1838, inclusive, making two hundred and one days, at \$5 per day, - - - - - \$1,005 00

Expenses from the 16th September to the 8th October, in going to Augusta, including fare, &c.	- - - - -	75 00
From the 8th October to the 28th, inclusive, by returning from Augusta to the Cherokee agency and back again to Augusta, by request of Colonel Sherburne,	- - - - -	145 00
Furnished my associates with	- - - - -	20 00
Fare from Augusta to Charleston,	- - - - -	7 75
Bill in Charleston, including washing and incidentals, three days,	- - - - -	10 00
Steamboat fare from Charleston to Savannah,	- - - - -	10 00
From Savannah to Garey's Ferry,	- - - - -	14 00
Incidentals on the way,	- - - - -	5 00
Fare from Garey's Ferry to St. Augustine,	- - - - -	2 00
Twelve days' board at St. Augustine, including washing, medical aid, and incidentals,	- - - - -	32 00
Presented a fine silk turban to Oseola,	- - - - -	7 00
Furnished Oseola with various little necessaries, and other presents for his family,	- - - - -	10 00
Presented a fine sash to Coa Hadjo,	- - - - -	12 00
Made small presents to his family,	- - - - -	3 00
Gave to the chiefs three pounds of tobacco, at 75 cents,	- - - - -	2 25
Gave to the chiefs five pounds, at 50 cents,	- - - - -	2 50
Gave to the chiefs smoking tobacco,	- - - - -	1 50
Furnished ourselves with cakes and candy, to carry into the interior of Florida,	- - - - -	4 50

Bought paper and quills, - - -	\$00 75
Presented pipes to the chiefs, to the amount of - -	12 00
Presented to various Indians 10 bead chains, at 75 cents, -	7 50
Fare from St. Augustine to Fort Mellon, - -	5 00
Bill at Fort Mellon, including comforts for myself and associates, washing, &c. - -	35 37½
Bought five pounds of tobacco, at 75 cents, - -	3 75
Bought a piece dried beef, - - -	1 75
Bought beef in the hostile camp of the Seminoles, on the head of the St. John's, - - -	1 50
Presented cloth vest to Nocose Yahola, chief of rank, -	5 00
Presented three blankets to different chiefs, - -	7 50
Presented divers other things, not recollected, - -	10 00
Fare from Fort Mellon to St. Augustine, on my return homeward, - - -	2 00
Bill at St. Augustine, on my return, - - -	5 37½
From St. Augustine to Charleston, steward's charge on board steamboat, - - -	2 50
Bill in Charleston, Planters' Hotel, - - -	5 50
Bill for hack hire, - - -	1 00
Fare from Charleston to Washington city, - -	45 50
Bill at Fuller's, - - -	250 00
Amount necessary to pay my expenses home, - -	75 00
Physician's bill in Washington, - - -	15 00
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	\$1,860 50
Gave cloth coat and pantaloons, as a present to an Indian, -	25 00
Paid for barber's bill, &c., on the trip, - - -	9 50
	<hr/>
	<u>\$1,895 00</u>

*The United States, in account with Major Polecat, Dr.*

For services as an interpreter to the Cherokee mediation, on a mission of peace to the Seminoles of Florida, under the appointment of John Ross, principal chief of the Cherokee nation, and the escort of Colonel John H. Sherburne, special agent of the United States, commencing from the 28th of October, 1837, up to the 4th of April, 1838, inclusive, making 159 days, at \$5 per day, - - -	\$795 00
Paid for horse hire and conveyance to Coosawatee, where I took the stage for Augusta, Georgia, on my way to Florida, - -	5 00
Contingent expenses, consisting of medicine, barber's bill, &c. - - -	7 50
A. Fuller & Co's bill, for board and lodging from the 30th of December, 1837, to the 22d of March, inclusive, - -	209 57
Estimate for expenses for returning home to the Cherokee nation, - - -	70 00
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	<u>\$1,087 07</u>



## OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS,

March 20, 1838.

According to directions received from the Secretary of War, the whole amount of the first item above (\$795) cannot be allowed. So much of it as is for services from the day the claimant left home till the day he could have returned to it, if he had not deviated from the proper route, will be paid.

The second can be paid.

The third can be paid, if the expenditure occurred during the time they are to receive compensation.

No part of the fourth or fifth can be allowed.

Colonel Sherburne's certificate should accompany the accounts, and they should be made out anew, in conformity to the principles above set forth.

C. A. HARRIS, *Commissioner*.

Approved:

J. R. P.